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**Legislative Bulletin.....June 23, 2010**

**Contents:**

- H.R. 5551** - To require the Secretary of the Treasury to make a certification when making purchases under the Small Business Lending Fund Program
- H.Res. 1434** - Recognizing National Homeownership Month and the importance of homeownership in the United States
- H.R. \_\_** - To extend the authorization of the National Flood Insurance Program until September 30, 2010
- S. 2865** - Congressional Award Program Reauthorization Act
- H.Con.Res. 285** - Supporting the goals and ideals of designating 2010 as the Year of the Father
- H.Res. 1034** - Expressing support for designation of July 2010 as "Braille Literacy Month"
- H.Res. 1373** - Expressing support for "National Physical Education and Sport Week"
- H.R. 3993** - Calling Card Consumer Protection Act
- S. 1660** - Formaldehyde Standards for Composite Wood Products Act
- H.Res. 1350** - Recognizing June 20, 2010, as World Refugee Day
- S.J.Res. 32** - Recognizing the 60th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War and reaffirming the United States-Korea alliance
- H.Res. \_\_** - Recognizing the 50th anniversary of the conclusion of the United States-Japan Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security and expressing appreciation to the Government of Japan and the Japanese people for enhancing peace, prosperity, and security in the Asia-Pacific region
- H.Res. \_\_** - Reaffirming the longstanding friendship and alliance between the United States and Colombia
- H.Res. 1359** - Calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit held captive by Hamas
- H.Res. 1457** - Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives on the one-year anniversary of the Government of Iran's manipulation of Iranian elections, on the Government of Iran's continued denial of human rights and democracy to the people of Iran, and on the Government of Iran's continued pursuit of a nuclear weapons capability
- H.R. 5481** - To give subpoena power to the National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling

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**H.R. 5551 - To require the Secretary of the Treasury to make a certification when making purchases under the Small Business Lending Fund Program (Kosmas, D-FL)**

**Order of Business:** The legislation is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, June 23, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.R. 5551 would require the Secretary of the Treasury, before making the *first* purchase of the Small Business Lending Fund Program (under the House-passed, but

not yet enacted, version of H.R. 5297) to certify, under oath, to the Inspector General of the Department of the Treasury, with a copy to the Comptroller General of the United States, that the purchase-decision process has been designed so that each purchase decision is made solely on the basis of economic fundamentals and not because of any political considerations.

**Potential Conservative Concern:** The amended version of this legislation that will come to the floor under suspension of the rules is intended to provide political cover for House Democrats who, last week, voted against the Republican MTR to H.R. 5297. However, the version of this bill that will come to the floor is weaker than the MTR, and also weaker than the version of the bill as introduced.

Specifically, instead of requiring the Secretary to certify, under oath, for each purchase under the Small Business Lending Fund that the decision is being made “solely on the basis of economic fundamentals and not because of any political considerations,” the version of the legislation that the House will vote on just requires a more general certification that the “purchase-decision process has been *designed* so that each purchase is made solely on the basis of economic fundamentals and not because of any political considerations.” This is a much lower standard.

**Committee Action:** H.R. 5551 was introduced on June 17, 2010, and referred to the House Financial Services Committee, which took no public action.

**Administration Position:** No Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) is available.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution would not authorize any additional expenditures.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** Though the bill contains no earmarks, and there’s no accompanying committee report, the earmarks rule (House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report stating constitutional authority is unavailable.

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## **H.Res. 1434 - Recognizing National Homeownership Month and the importance of homeownership in the United States (Miller, R-CA)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, June 23, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. 1434 would resolve that the House of Representatives:

- “Fully supports the goals and ideals of National Homeownership Month;
- “Recognizes the importance of homeownership in building strong communities and families; and
- “Reaffirms the importance of homeownership in the Nation's economy and its central role in our national economic recovery.”

The resolution lists a number of findings including:

- “Owning a home is a fundamental part of the American dream and is the largest personal investment many families will ever make;
- “Homeownership provides economic security for homeowners by aiding them in building wealth over time and strengthens communities through a greater stake among homeowners in local schools, civic organizations, and churches;
- **“Creating affordable homeownership opportunities requires the commitment and cooperation of the private, public, and nonprofit sectors, including the Federal Government and State and local governments;**
- “Homeownership can be sustained through appropriate homeownership education and informed borrowers; and
- “Affordable homeownership will play a vital role in resolving the crisis in the United States housing market.”

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 1434 was introduced on June 6, 2010, and referred to the House Financial Services Committee, which took no public action.

**Administration Position:** No Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) is available.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution would not authorize any additional expenditures.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** Though the bill contains no earmarks, and there's no accompanying committee report, the earmarks rule (House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report stating constitutional authority is unavailable.

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**H.R. \_\_ - To extend the authorization of the National Flood Insurance Program until September 30, 2010 (*Waters, D-CA*)**

**Order of Business:** The legislation is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, June 23, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.R. \_\_ extends the National Flood Insurance Program until September 30, 2010, and makes the extension retroactive to May 31, 2010. Financing for the program would be reduced by \$100 million, to \$20,675,000,000.

**Additional Information:** The National Flood Insurance Program was originally created by the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4026). The National Flood Insurance Program is administered under FEMA, under the Department of Homeland Security.

**Conservative Concern:** Some conservatives may be concerned that the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) dampens the financial and common-sense disincentives to build homes in flood-prone areas by making flood insurance artificially more available than it otherwise would be. In addition, some conservatives may be concerned that the legislation makes the provisions of the bill retroactive to May 31, 2010. Other conservatives have expressed concern over the NFIP's ever growing debt. The program is currently in debt of approximately \$19 billion.

**Committee Action:** H.R. \_\_ has yet to be introduced.

**Administration Position:** No Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) is available.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** No CBO score citing a cost to taxpayers is available.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** Though the bill contains no earmarks, and there's no accompanying committee report, the earmarks rule (House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report stating constitutional authority is unavailable.

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## **S. 2865 - Congressional Award Program Reauthorization Act (*Sen. Lieberman, ID-CT*)**

**Order of Business:** The legislation is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, June 23, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** S. 2865 reauthorizes the Congressional Award Program through October 1, 2013. The legislation sets processes by which board members can be reappointed.

**Additional Information:** The enabling legislation (Public Law 96-114) established the [Congressional Award Program](#) as a private-public partnership, which (according to their website) receives all funding from the private sector, and was originally signed into law by President Jimmy Carter. This program has been reauthorized on at least 4 occasions. Senator Max Baucus and Rep Gus Bilirakis are listed as being on the Program's [Board of Directors](#).

The Congressional Award program is open to all 14 – 23 year olds. Participants earn Bronze, Silver and Gold Congressional Award Certificates or Medals. Each level involves setting goals in four program areas; Volunteer Public Service, Personal Development, Physical Fitness, and Expedition/Exploration.

**Committee Action:** S. 2865 was introduced on December 10, 2009 and referred to the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, which reported the bill without amendment. The legislation passed the Senate on March 17, 2010 by unanimous consent, and was referred to the House Education and Labor Committee, which took no public action.

**Administration Position:** No Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) is available.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** CBO states that S. 2865 would cost less than \$500,000 a year.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** Though the bill contains no earmarks, and there's no accompanying committee report, the earmarks rule (House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report stating constitutional authority is unavailable.

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## **H.Con.Res. 285 - Supporting the goals and ideals of designating 2010 as the Year of the Father (McMorris Rodgers, R-WA)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, June 23, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Con.Res. 285 resolves that Congress:

- “Recognizes the important role that fathers play in the lives of their children and families; and
- “Supports the goals and ideals of the Year of the Father.”

The resolution lists a number of findings including:

- “Father's Day was founded in 1910 by Mrs. John B. Dodd after attending a Mother's Day celebration in 1909 and believing that fathers should receive the same recognition;
- “Spokane, Washington, recognized and hosted the first celebration of Father's Day on June 19, 1910;
- “It is well documented that children involved with loving fathers are significantly more likely to have healthy self-esteems, exhibit empathy and prosocial behavior, avoid high risk behaviors, have reduced antisocial behavior and delinquency in boys, have better peer relationships, and have higher occupational mobility relative to parents;
- “Fathers who live with their children are more likely to have a close, enduring relationship with their children than those who do not; and
- “The 100th anniversary of Father's Day will be celebrated in Spokane, Washington, on June 20, 2010.”

**Committee Action:** H.Con.Res. 285 was introduced on June 10, 2010, and referred to the House Education and Labor Committee, which took no public action.

**Administration Position:** No Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) is available.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution would not authorize any additional expenditures.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** Though the bill contains no earmarks, and there's no accompanying committee report, the earmarks rule (House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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### **H.Res. 1034 - Expressing support for designation of July 2010 as "Braille Literacy Month" (*Sarbanes, D-MD*)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, June 23, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. 1034 would resolve that the House of Representatives:

- "Congratulates the National Federation of the Blind for its 70 years of outstanding service to the blind, especially its fight for an equal education and access to Braille for all blind children in the United States;
- "Supports the designation of 'National Braille Literacy Month' in recognition of the 70th anniversary of the National Federation of the Blind and of the importance of Braille; and
- "Calls upon the people of the United States to recognize the central role that Braille plays in the lives of blind people and to support the efforts of the National Federation of the Blind to promote Braille literacy."

The resolution lists a number of findings including:

- "Since its invention by Louis Braille (1809-1852), the reading and writing code for the blind that bears his name has become the accepted method of reading and writing for the blind the world over;
- "Despite its efficiency, versatility, and universal acceptance by the blind, the rate of Braille literacy in the United States has declined to the point where only 10 percent of blind children are learning the code;
- "Braille is the key to independence, productivity, and success for blind people, as evidenced by the facts that while 70 percent of the blind are unemployed, 85 percent of those who are employed know Braille;
- "The National Federation of the Blind, the Nation's oldest and largest organization of blind people and the leading advocate for Braille literacy in the United States, has launched a national 'Braille Readers are Leaders' campaign to

- promote awareness of the importance of Braille and to increase the availability of competent Braille instruction and of Braille reading materials in this country; and
- “The National Federation of the Blind is celebrating its 70th anniversary this year.”

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 1034 was introduced on January 21, 2010, and was referred to the House Education and Labor Subcommittee on Healthy Families and Communities, which took no public action.

**Administration Position:** No Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) is available.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution does not authorize additional expenditures.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** Though the bill contains no earmarks, and there’s no accompanying committee report, the earmarks rule (House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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## **H.Res. 1373 - Expressing support for “National Physical Education and Sport Week” (*Altmire, D-PA*)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, June 23, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. 1373 would resolve that the House of Representatives:

- “Supports the designation of ‘National Physical Education and Sport Week;’
- “Recognizes the central role of physical education and sports in creating healthy lifestyles for all children and youth;
- “Encourages school districts to implement local wellness policies, as described in section 204 of the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004 (42 U.S.C. 1751 note), that include ambitious goals for physical education, physical activity, and other activities addressing the childhood obesity epidemic and promoting child wellness; and

- “Encourages schools to offer physical education classes to students and to work with community partners to provide opportunities and safe spaces for physical activities before and after school and during the summer months for all children and youth.”

The resolution lists a number of findings including:

- “According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, overweight adolescents have a 70 to 80 percent chance of becoming overweight adults, increasing their risk for chronic disease, disability, and death;
- “The Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans, published by the Department of Health and Human Services, recommend that children engage in at least 60 minutes of physical activity on most, and preferably all, days of the week;
- “Research shows that fit and active children are more likely to thrive academically;
- “Efforts to improve the fitness level of children who are not physically fit may also result in improvements in academic performance; and
- “The House of Representatives strongly supports efforts to increase physical activity and participation of youth in sports.”

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 1373 was introduced on May 24, 2010, and was referred to the House Education and Labor Committee, which took no public action.

**Administration Position:** No Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) is available.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution does not authorize additional expenditures.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** Though the bill contains no earmarks, and there’s no accompanying committee report, the earmarks rule (House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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**H.R. 3993 - Calling Card Consumer Protection Act (*Engel, D-NY*)**

**Order of Business:** The legislation is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, June 23, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.R. 3993 would require certain information to be disclosed and printed on prepaid calling cards. If the card is enclosed in packaging this information is required to be disclosed on the outside packaging of the card.

The following information will be required to be disclosed:

- “The name of the prepaid calling card provider and such provider's customer service telephone number and hours of service, except that the hours of service may not be required to be disclosed if the provider's customer service is provided and available 24 hours a day, 7 days per week;
- “The number of domestic interstate minutes available from the prepaid calling card and the number of available minutes for all international preferred destinations served by the prepaid calling card at the time of purchase; or
  - “The dollar value of the prepaid calling card, the domestic interstate rate per minute provided by such card, and the applicable per minute rates for all international preferred destinations served by the prepaid calling card at the time of purchase;
- “The applicable per minute rate for all individual international destinations served by the card at the time of purchase; or
  - “A toll-free customer service number and website (if the provider maintains a website) where a consumer may obtain the information described in subparagraph (A) and a statement that such information may be obtained through such toll-free customer service number and website;
- “The following terms and conditions pertaining to, or associated with, the use of the prepaid calling card:
  - “Any applicable fees associated with the use of the prepaid calling card;
  - “A description of any additional charges associated with the use of the prepaid calling card and the amount of such charges;
  - “Any limitation on the use or period of time for which the promoted or advertised minutes or rates will be available;
  - “A description of the applicable policies relating to refund, recharge, and any predetermined decrease in value of such card over a period of time;
  - “Any expiration date applicable to the prepaid calling card or the minutes available with such calling card.”

The legislation requires that any information given to a consumer by a voice prompt at the time the consumer uses the prepaid calling card that relates to the remaining value of the calling card, or the number of minutes available, must be accurate and will take into account the application of the fees and additional charges required to be disclosed.

H.R. 3993 would allow state attorney general's to file civil action on behalf of the state if they had reason to believe that an interest of the residents had been threatened or

adversely affected by this legislation. Before filing, the state would have to notify the Federal Trade Commission (Commission) by a written notice.

After two years from the time regulations under this legislation have been in place, the Comptroller General shall conduct a study on the effectiveness of this legislation and submit a report to Congress not later than three years after this legislation is enacted.

The Commission will also be required to submit a report on how business practices of the prepaid calling card industry have been addressed by this legislation.

**Committee Action:** H.R. 3993 was introduced on November 3, 2009 and referred to the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade and Consumer Protection. A subcommittee markup was held on March 24, 2010 and the bill was reported as amended. A full committee markup was held on May 3, 2010 and the legislation was adopted as amended, by voice vote.

**Administration Position:** No Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) is available.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** CBO estimates that H.R. 3993 would cost about \$1 million over the 2011 – 2015 period.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** Yes. H.R. 3993 contains intergovernmental and private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA). The bill would preempt laws in at least four states that require disclosures to be printed on calling cards. The bill also would impose notification requirements and limitations on State Attorneys General, utility commissions, and consumer protection agencies. Because the limits on state authority would not require the expenditure of funds and because the notification requirements would result in minimal additional spending, CBO estimates that the costs of the mandates would be small and would not exceed the threshold established in UMRA (\$70 million in 2010, adjusted annually for inflation). By requiring the providers of prepaid calling cards to disclose information about the provider and the terms and conditions of the service on each calling card, its packaging, and advertisements, the bill would impose a private-sector mandate as defined in UMRA. According to industry sources, most providers already adhere to the requirements in the bill as part of their standard business practice. Further, those sources indicate that the incremental cost to providers that do not meet the standards in the bill would be small. Therefore, CBO estimates that the aggregate cost of the mandate would fall well below the annual threshold established in UMRA for private-sector mandates (\$141 million in 2010, adjusted annually for inflation).

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** According to House Report 111-507, H.R. 3993

contains no earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

**Constitutional Authority:** House Report 111-507 cites constitutional authority in Article I, section 8, clauses 3 and 18 of the Constitution of the United States.

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## **S. 1660 - Formaldehyde Standards for Composite Wood Products Act (*Sen. Klobuchar, D-MN*)**

**Order of Business:** The legislation is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, June 23, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** S. 1660 would make the California formaldehyde emission standard apply to all hardwood plywood, medium-density fiberboard, and particle board that is sold, supplied, offered for sale, or manufactured in the United States. The legislation makes exemptions to military-specified plywood, curved plywood, and certain other products.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) would be required to implement these regulations by January 1, 2012. The EPA would be required to revise regulations on imported products covered by this legislation by July 1, 2011.

This legislation would also direct the Administrator of the EPA to develop a process to determine if the definition of the term “hardwood plywood” should exempt engineered veneer or any laminated product.

A report to Congress would be required to be submitted one year after the date of enactments and annually through December 31, 2014. The report would contain the status of measures carried out or planned to be carried out under title VI of the Toxic Substances Control Act, and would contain a progress report of industry compliance.

**Additional Information:** The national standard would be based on the standard established by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) which is currently being phased in by the state of California. According to CBO, CARB estimated that the cost of complying with the state standard would exceed \$100 million. According to information from the industry, the cost to comply with a national standard would significantly exceed the cost of the CARB standard. At the same time, industry sources indicate that a significant portion of the industry nationwide already complies with the standard for formaldehyde emissions established by CARB.

**Conservative Concern:** Some conservatives may be concerned over the private-sector mandates that would result from the bill. According to CBO, CARB estimated that the cost of complying with the state standard would exceed \$100 million. According to

information from the industry, the cost to comply with a national standard would significantly exceed the cost of the CARB standard.

Other conservatives may be concerned that there is no attempt made to justify the authority of Congress to enact such legislation.

**Committee Action:** S. 1660 was introduced on September 10, 2009 and referred to the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, which held a markup and reported the bill as amended. The legislation then passed the Senate on June 14, 2010 by unanimous consent.

**Administration Position:** No Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) is available.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** CBO estimates that S. 1660 would cost about \$3 million over the 2010 – 2011 period.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** Yes. The bill would lead to additional mandates on the private sector.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** Yes. The legislation would require manufacturers, sellers, suppliers and importers of composite wood products to meet a national standard for formaldehyde emissions. Because of uncertainty about the extent to which entities would already be in compliance with the requirements in the bill, CBO cannot determine whether the cost of the mandate would exceed the annual threshold established in UMRA for private-sector mandates (\$141 million in 2010, adjusted annually for inflation).

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** Though the bill contains no earmarks, and there's no accompanying committee report, the earmarks rule (House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules.

**Constitutional Authority:** House Report 111-169 does not contain a statement of constitutional authority.

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### **H.Res. 1350 - Recognizing June 20, 2010, as World Refugee Day (Watson, D-CA)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, June 23, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. 1350 would resolve that the House of Representatives:

- “Reaffirms the commitment of the United States to promote the safety, health, and well-being of the millions of refugees who flee war, famine, persecution, and torture in search of peace, nourishment, hope, and freedom;
- “Calls on the Department of State to continue to support the efforts of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and to advance the work of nongovernmental organizations, especially those that also have expertise in resettlement, to protect refugees;
- “Calls on the United States Government to continue to strengthen its leadership role in the international community in response to those who have been displaced, including the most vulnerable populations who endure sexual violence, human trafficking, forced conscription, genocide, and exploitation;
- “Commends those who have risked their lives working individually and for the multitude of nongovernmental organizations, along with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, who have provided life-saving assistance and helped protect those displaced by conflict around the world; and
- “Reaffirms the goals of World Refugee Day and reiterates the strong commitment to protect the millions of refugees who live without material, social, or legal protections.”

The resolution lists a number of findings including:

- “The annual commemoration of World Refugee Day is marked by a variety of events in more than 100 countries, involving government officials, humanitarian workers and volunteers, celebrities, and the forcibly displaced;
- “Refugees are people who have been forced to flee their countries due to a well-founded fear of persecution based on their political opinions, religious beliefs, race, nationality, or membership in a particular social group;
- “2010 marks the 30th anniversary of the Refugee Act of 1980, the cornerstone of the United States' system of refugee protection and assistance;
- “The United States continues to be the single largest refugee resettlement country in the world; and
- “The United States is the largest single donor to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.”

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 1350 was introduced on May 11, 2010, and was referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, which took no public action.

**Administration Position:** No Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) is available.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution does not authorize additional expenditures.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** Though the bill contains no earmarks, and there's no accompanying committee report, the earmarks rule (House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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**S.J.Res. 32 - Recognizing the 60th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War and reaffirming the United States-Korea alliance  
(Sen. Burr, R-NC)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, June 23, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** S.J.Res. 32 would resolve that the House of Representatives:

- “Recognizes the historical importance of the 60th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War, which began on June 25, 1950;
- “Honors the noble service and sacrifice of the United States Armed Forces and the armed forces of allied countries that served in Korea since 1950 to the present;
- “Encourages all Americans to participate in commemorative activities to pay solemn tribute to, and to never forget, the veterans of the Korean War; and
- “Reaffirms the commitment of the United States to its alliance with the Republic of Korea for the betterment of peace and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula.”

The resolution lists a number of findings including:

- “On June 25, 1950, communist North Korea invaded the Republic of Korea with approximately 135,000 troops, thereby initiating the Korean War;
- “During the Korean War, approximately 1,789,000 members of the United States Armed Forces served in theater along with the forces of the Republic of Korea and 20 other members of the United Nations to defend freedom and democracy;
- “Casualties of the United States during the Korean War included 54,246 dead (of whom 33,739 were battle deaths), more than 103,284 wounded, and approximately 8,055 listed as missing in action or prisoners of war;
- “The Republic of Korea is among the closest allies of the United States, having contributed troops in support of United States operations during the Vietnam war, Gulf war, and operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, while also supporting numerous United Nations peacekeeping missions throughout the world; and
- “North Korea's sinking of the South Korean naval ship, Cheonan, on March 26, 2010, which resulted in the killing of 46 sailors, necessitates a reaffirmation of the

United States-Korea alliance in safeguarding the stability of the Korean Peninsula.”

**Committee Action:** S.J.Res. 32 was introduced on June 16, 2010 and passed the Senate on June 16, 2010 by unanimous consent. The resolution was then held at the desk.

**Additional Information:** The House passed a similar resolution (H.J.Res. 86) on June 17, 2010, by voice vote.

**Administration Position:** No Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) is available.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution does not authorize additional expenditures.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** Though the bill contains no earmarks, and there’s no accompanying committee report, the earmarks rule (House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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**H.Res. \_\_ - Recognizing the 50th anniversary of the conclusion of the United States-Japan Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security and expressing appreciation to the Government of Japan and the Japanese people for enhancing peace, prosperity, and security in the Asia-Pacific region (Ros-Lehtinen, R-IL)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, June 23, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. \_\_ would resolve that the House of Representatives:

- “Recognizes Japan as an indispensable security partner of the United States in providing peace, prosperity, and stability to the Asia-Pacific region;
- “Recognizes that the broad support and understanding of the Japanese people are indispensable for the stationing of the United States Armed Forces in Japan, the

- core element of the United States-Japan security arrangements that protect both Japan and the Asia-Pacific region from external threats and instability;
- “Expresses its appreciation to the people of Japan, and especially on Okinawa, for their continued hosting of the United States Armed Forces;
  - “Encourages Japan to continue its international engagement in humanitarian, development, and environmental issues; and
  - “Anticipates another 50 years of unshakeable friendship and deepening cooperation under the auspices of the United States-Japan Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security.”

The resolution lists a number of findings including:

- “January 19, 2010, marked the 50th anniversary of the signing of the United States-Japan Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security which has played an indispensable role in ensuring the security and prosperity of both the United States and Japan, as well as in promoting regional peace and stability;
- “The United States-Japan Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security, a cornerstone of United States security interests in the Asia-Pacific region in general and of the United States-Japan alliance, specifically, entered into force on June 23, 1960;
- “The hosting by Japan of approximately 36,000 members of the United States Armed Forces has been a source of stability for both Japan and the Asia-Pacific region;
- “In 2010, Japan’s Maritime Self Defense Force is sending a ship to Vietnam and Cambodia from May until July to participate in the United States Navy’s Pacific Partnership, an annual medical aid mission aimed at enhancing Asia-Pacific countries’ capabilities in disaster relief, extending medical support, and carrying out cultural exchanges;
- “Japan has been a staunch ally in United States diplomatic efforts to denuclearize North Korea, having moved forward United Nations Security Council Resolution 1718 during Japan’s Presidency of the United Nations Security Council in October 2006.”

**Committee Action:** H.Res. \_\_\_\_ has not yet been introduced.

**Administration Position:** No Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) is available.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution does not authorize additional expenditures.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** Though the bill contains no earmarks, and there’s

no accompanying committee report, the earmarks rule (House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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## **H.Res. \_\_ - Reaffirming the longstanding friendship and alliance between the United States and Colombia (Ros-Lehtinen, R-IL)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, June 23, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. \_\_\_\_ would resolve that the House of Representatives:

- “Reaffirms the longstanding friendship and alliance between the United States and Colombia;
- “Recognizes Colombia’s commitment to the democratic process as demonstrated by the free and fair nature of these multiparty, internationally recognized elections; and
- “Congratulates President-elect Juan Manuel Santos on his recent victory in Colombia’s June 20, 2010, presidential election.”

The resolution lists a number of findings including:

- “Nearly 15,000,000 Colombians participated in the first round of Colombia’s presidential elections on May 30, 2010;
- “Juan Manuel Santos, of the National Unity Party, received 46.7 percent of the votes and Antanas Mockus, of the Green Party, received 21.5 percent of the votes;
- “In the second round on June 20, 2010, Juan Manuel Santos received 69 percent of the votes and was thereby declared President-elect of Colombia;
- “Colombia has overcome tremendous challenges to build their democracy; and
- “Colombia remains a vital ally and friend of the United States.”

**Committee Action:** H.Res. \_\_\_\_ has not yet been introduced.

**Administration Position:** No Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) is available.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution does not authorize additional expenditures.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** Though the bill contains no earmarks, and there's no accompanying committee report, the earmarks rule (House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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## **H.Res. 1359 - Calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit held captive by Hamas (*Ackerman, D-NY*)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, June 23, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. 1359 would resolve that the House of Representatives:

- “Demands that—
  - “ Hamas immediately and unconditionally release Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit; and
  - “ Hamas accede to the requirements of international humanitarian law and the most basic standards of human conduct by—
    - “Allowing prompt access to the Israeli captives by competent medical personnel and representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross;
    - “Providing Gilad Shalit the humane treatment all captives are entitled to as a fundamental human right;
    - “Facilitating regular communication by Gilad Shalit with his family and allow his family to know where he is being held; and
    - “Ceasing to compel Gilad Shalit to appear in video and voice recordings intended to illegally and extortionately coerce the Government of Israel;
- “Expresses—
  - “Its vigorous support and unwavering commitment to the welfare, security, and survival of the State of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state within recognized and secure borders;
  - “Its strong support and deep interest in achieving a resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through the creation of a democratic, viable, and independent Palestinian state living in peace alongside of the State of Israel;
  - “Its ongoing concern and sympathy for the family of Gilad Shalit; and
  - “Its full commitment to continue to seek the immediate and unconditional release of Gilad Shalit and other missing Israeli soldiers;

- “Recalls—
  - “The illegal and barbaric attack on and kidnapping of the bodies of Ehud Goldwasser and Eldad Regev on July 12, 2006, by the Iran-supported terrorist group Hezbollah; and
  - “The missing Israeli soldiers Zecharya Baumel, Zvi Feldman, and Yehuda Katz, missing since June 11, 1982, Ron Arad, who was captured on October 16, 1986, Guy Hever, last seen on August 17, 1997, and Majdy Halabi, last seen on May 24, 2005; and
- “Condemns—
  - “ Hamas for the grossly illegal and immoral cross border attack and kidnapping of Gilad Shalit; and
  - “Iran and Syria, the primary state sponsors and patrons of Hamas, for their ongoing support for international terrorism.”

The resolution lists a number of findings including:

- “Congress previously expressed its concern for missing Israeli soldiers in Public Law 106-89 (113 Stat. 1305; November 8, 1999), which required the Secretary of State to raise the status of missing Israeli soldiers with appropriate government officials of Syria, Lebanon, the Palestinian Authority, and other governments in the region, and to submit to Congress reports on those efforts and any subsequent discovery of relevant information;
- “On June 25, 2006, contrary to international humanitarian law and the most basic standards of human conduct, Hamas together with allied terrorists crossed into Israel to attack a military post, killing two soldiers and wounding and kidnapping Gilad Shalit in a blatantly illegal and extortionate effort to coerce the Government of Israel;
- “Hamas, contrary to international humanitarian law and the most basic standards of human conduct, has prevented access to Gilad Shalit by competent medical personnel and representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross;
- “Hamas, contrary to international humanitarian law and the most basic standards of human conduct, has compelled Gilad Shalit to appear in video and voice recordings intended to illegally and extortionately coerce the Government of Israel; and
- “Gilad Shalit has been held in captivity by Hamas for almost four years.”

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 1359 was introduced on May 13, 2010, and was referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, which took no public action.

**Administration Position:** No Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) is available.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution does not authorize additional expenditures.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** Though the bill contains no earmarks, and there's no accompanying committee report, the earmarks rule (House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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**H.Res. 1457 - Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives on the one-year anniversary of the Government of Iran's manipulation of Iranian elections, on the Government of Iran's continued denial of human rights and democracy to the people of Iran, and on the Government of Iran's continued pursuit of a nuclear weapons capability (*Costa, D-CA*)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, June 23, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. 1457 would resolve that the House of Representatives:

- “Reaffirms its support for all Iranian citizens who courageously struggle for freedom, human rights, civil liberties, and the protection of the rule of law;
- “Condemns the ongoing violence and human rights abuses against the people of Iran by the Government of Iran and pro-government militias, as well as the ongoing government suppression of independent electronic communication through interference with the Internet and cell phones;
- “Condemns the Government of Iran's continued pursuit of a nuclear weapons capability and unconventional weapons and ballistic missile capabilities, and its use of its nuclear program to distract attention from its horrific abuses of the human rights of the Iranian people;
- “Urges the immediate release of all political prisoners detained by the Government of Iran and the immediate end of all harassment and violence against the people of Iran by the Government of Iran and pro-government militias;
- “Reaffirms the universality of individual human and political rights; and
- “Calls for freedom and democracy for the people of Iran, including fair, democratic, and independent elections in Iran.”

The resolution lists a number of findings including:

- “On June 12, 2009, the date scheduled for Iranian presidential elections, in which only candidates approved by the Government of Iran’s Guardian Council were allowed to compete, the ensuing announcement by Iranian authorities of an “Overwhelming victory” for Mahmoud Ahmadinejad was made suspiciously early;
- “The Government of Iran’s unrealistic vote count and fraudulent announcement of election results prompted millions of Iranians to rush into the streets in protest and prompted unprecedented public criticism by Iranians of the authoritarian rulers of the Government of Iran;
- “The Government of Iran, Iranian riot police, members of the Revolutionary Guard Corps, and Basij militias engaged in a brutal crackdown on the Iranian people in the aftermath of the disputed presidential election of June 12, 2009, killing, injuring, or imprisoning many Iranians, stifling freedom of speech, press, and assembly, and violating fundamental human rights;
- “Ahmad Jannati, who heads the Government of Iran’s powerful Guardian Council, has called for the execution of more dissidents and protestors, and a senior official of the Iranian “judiciary” has stated that the Government of Iran will soon execute further dissidents; and
- “According to the Department of State’s Country Reports on Terrorism, Iran remains “the most active state sponsor of terrorism”, continuing to provide arms, financing, training, and other support to Hamas, Hezbollah, and other groups designated by the United States as Foreign Terrorist Organizations, in addition to providing lethal support to violent militants in Iraq and Afghanistan.”

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 1457 was introduced on June 22, 2010 and referred to the House Foreign Affairs Committee, which took no public action.

**Administration Position:** No Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) is available.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution does not authorize additional expenditures.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** Though the bill contains no earmarks, and there’s no accompanying committee report, the earmarks rule (House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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**H.R. 5481—To give subpoena power to the National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling  
(Capps, D-CA)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, June 23, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.R. 5481 would extend the authority for National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling to issue subpoenas to compel the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the production of books, records, correspondence, memoranda, and other documents. The subpoenas may be issued by the co-chairs of the commission or a member designated by a majority of the Commission. The bill allows the Commission to request the Attorney General's assistance to seek enforcement of the subpoena and may punish any failure to obey the order as a contempt of court.

**Additional Information:** On May 21, 2010, the President established a seven-person commission to investigate the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico in an "objective" fashion and address measures that can be taken to prevent a future spill from occurring again. The [Wall Street Journal made note](#) of the "objective" appointees who have a long history or opposing additional energy exploration in the Gulf.

Yesterday, a federal judge overturned the Obama administration's arbitrary six-month moratorium on deep-water drilling in the Gulf of Mexico and acted "arbitrarily and capriciously" in imposing the ban. The Obama administration has already indicated they will appeal despite the urging of Governor Jindal to drop it because the Obama moratorium will outsource tens of thousands of U.S. jobs to other countries and cost the region hundreds of millions in lost revenue.

**RSC Bonus Fact:** In case you missed it, the Obama administration acted swiftly to [change the name](#) of the Minerals Management Service (MMS) to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement - also known as the Bureau of Ocean Energy (BOE) for short.

**Committee Action:** On June 9, 2010, the bill was introduced and referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Judiciary. No further subsequent public action was taken.

**Administration Position:** No Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) is available.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** A CBO cost estimate of H.R. 5481 is unavailable.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?** No.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** Though the bill contains no earmarks, and there's no accompanying committee report, the earmarks rule (House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules.

**Constitutional Authority:** No explanation of constitutional authority is provided for H.R. 5481.

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